SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR BLIND AND SEVERELY VISUALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCTOBER 1953

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the Welfare and Health Council of New York City.

INTRODUCTION

The parents of children with limited sight or no sight usually need assistance and advice in order that they may help their children to develop normally and to lead happy, useful lives. Parents recognize the need for guidance, but often do not know where to obtain such help, as there are so many agencies with varied services in a city as large as New York.

It is hoped that this booklet will serve as a guide to parents, and to the physicians, nurses, social workers, educators and others interested in helping these children* in obtaining the services they need as quickly and effectively as possible.

In the material which follows: first will be described three agencies which offer city-wide information services about community resources and assist individuals and agencies in the selection and use of welfare and health services. Then will follow a description of each of the three agencies in the city which have comprehensive, specialized programs primarily designed to meet the needs of blind or partially sighted persons of all ages. These agencies are: The Industrial Home for the Blind; The New York Association for the Blind (The Lighthouse); and the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind. All three of these agencies serve people of all religions and races and offer a wide scope of services, which will be described in greater detail in the pages that follow. Unless otherwise specified, all of these services are free.

* Throughout this booklet, "children" will be used in the legal sense: from birth to the age of 21 years.

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Following the services offered by the three specialized agencies, there is a listing and brief description of other community agencies that offer varied services to children who are blind or visually handicapped. These community agencies usually work cooperatively with the three specialized agencies mentioned above. Then follows a description of the agencies with national programs for the prevention of blindness and services to the blind. Lastly as a guide to securing medical eye care, there is a list of hospitals and clinics in New York City approved by the American Medical Association for the training of ophthalmologists.

In order to make best use of the agencies listed in this directory or any community agency, it is recommended that if the child or family is under the care of a physician, hospital, health or social agency, that the physician, hospital, social service department or agency be consulted prior to seeking other help or care.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

Introduction: Purpose and Plan..... 3 - 4

I. Information, Consultation and Referral Services ..... 6 - 8

II. Agencies Offering Specialized, Comprehensive Service Programs 9-14

III. Additional Community Agencies Serving Blind or Partially Sighted Children.....15-21

IV. National Agencies 21-22

V. Hospitals and Eye Clinics.....22-23

VI. Department of Health Eye Clinics..... 24

I. INFORMATION, CONSULTATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Further information about which of the agencies listed to select, or whether these or other agencies are able to give the help needed, may be secured from the Information Bureau of the Welfare and Health Council, the Bureau for Handicapped Children of the Department of Health, or the State Commission for the Blind, which among their other services, offer an information and referral service.

Welfare and Health Council of New York City
44 East 23 Street, Manhattan 10, ALgonquin 4-5500
Information Bureau
J. Donald Kingsley, Executive Director
Lena U. Oveson, Director, Information Bureau

AREA SERVED: New York City.

PROGRAM: The Welfare and Health Council is the central planning and coordinating organization for the city's welfare and health agencies, both public and voluntary. The Information Bureau gives information about and makes referrals to social and health agencies in the city.

Any person in trouble or need, or any individual or agency concerned about such a person, can learn from the Information Bureau which social or health agency can help him. The staff of the Information Bureau consists of experienced social workers, since inquiries are often complicated and involve not only wide knowledge of community

resources but also judgment and skill in helping troubled people determine the best first steps to take toward finding the help they need. Information is not restricted to resources for the visually or physically handicapped but covers resources for all areas of social need.

For information or appointment, telephone the Information Bureau.

Bureau for Handicapped Children
New York City Health Department
125 Worth Street, New York City 13—WOrth 2-6900
Helen M. Wallace, M.D., Director

AREA SERVED: New York City.

PROGRAM: Provides information and consultation services on behalf of children up to 21 years of age with various kinds of physical handicaps. These and other services are offered through a staff of medical, nursing and social work consultants.

Makes payment for specified types of medical services to hospitals and other medical care facilities approved for participation in the medical services program. Coordinates and promotes community resources to meet the needs of handicapped children. Cooperates with the Board of Education in relation to school placement of physically handicapped children, including visually handicapped children. Operates a series of eye diagnostic clinics for children.

For additional information or appointment, call the Medical Social Consultant.

Commission for the Blind
State Department of Social Welfare
205 East 42nd St., Manhattan 17, MUrray Hill 4-5000
Ruth B. McCoy, Acting Director
Alice O. Booth, Assistant Director

AREA SERVED: New York State.

PROGRAM: Public agency providing information and consultation services to individuals and agencies on: blindness and prevention of blindness; pre-school guidance; home teaching for adult blind; vocational rehabilitation; concession stand opportunities; industrial instruction; sale of products made by the blind; and Talking Book Machines. Pamphlets related to conservation of sight are available. A bulletin for professional workers, "The Field of Vision", is published quarterly.

This agency maintains a state-wide register of the blind.*

It also provides direct services such as home teaching and guidance to blind persons, but gives these services primarily in the areas of the State where there are not other agencies, such as there are in New York City, to give these services.

For appointment or additional information regarding any service, call the Commission for the Blind.

* This register is maintained in order that appropriate assistance and services may be offered to blind persons. Reporting to the Commission is mandatory by health and welfare agencies, physicians and nurses of individuals who are under their care and come under the legal definition of blindness. A blind person is defined as "one who is totally blind or has impaired vision of not more than twenty/two hundred visual acuity in the better eye and for whom a diagnosis and medical findings show that vision cannot be improved to better than twenty/two hundred; or who has loss of vision due wholly or in part to impairment of field vision or to other factors which affect the usefulness of vision to a like degree."

II. AGENCIES OFFERING SPECIALIZED, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS

Industrial Home for the Blind
520 Gates Avenue
Brooklyn 16, New York, MAin 2-6500
Peter J. Salmon, Executive Director
Harry J. Spar, Director of Rehabilitation
Elizabeth Maloney, Director, Social Service Dept.

AREA SERVED: Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

PROGRAM: Specialized guidance, vocational counselling, training, recreation and other services for blind persons. Certain services are limited to individuals of various age groups, as indicated below. However, this agency has agreements with other agencies to supplement needed services to their clients.

For the younger age group (birth to age 7), specialized guidance to parents and training for the children are offered and encouraged from the time that blindness is known or suspected. Although the agency has its own nursery school, it has also developed a very successful program of placing and supervising blind children in sighted nursery schools. Services of the nursery school, including transportation, are free and this agency will also pay for nursery school care and transportation of blind children in sighted nurseries, when indicated. Prior to nursery school age, pre-school

counselors assist the parents in the home with the children's training, development and education. Parent group meetings are held. The agency also works with other agencies in regard to foster home finding, placement and supervision of blind children and in counseling with foster parents. In addition to the nursery school and social work staff, there is a staff psychologist for the pre-school program and psychiatric consultation is available when indicated from the Long Island College Hospital, with which this agency is affiliated. A group therapy program for parents is available.

For the school age child, in addition to guidance and counseling, home instruction in Braille is given when indicated. There is a recreation program for the adolescent group, and help is given by the agency in developing other community recreation services which will be suitable for the visually handicapped.

The Vocational Institute of this agency offers vocational diagnosis, guidance, training and placement to blind boys and men of 18 and over. Free medical services are also available to men in the diagnostic and training program and to the men employed in the agency's sheltered workshops. Vocational counseling and placement are the only services of those given above, which are offered directly by the agency to blind girls and women of 18 and over—for additional services, referral is usually made to the Brooklyn Bureau for Social Service and Children's Aid Society.

Periodical: "The Reporter"—monthly publication distributed to the blind free, in *area* served by agency.

For additional information or appointment, call the Social Service Dept.

New York Association for the Blind
(The Lighthouse)
111 East 59th Street
New York City 22, ELdorado 5-2200
Philip S. Platt, Ph.D., Executive Director
Marion Held, Director, Department of Direct Services
Mary H. Guerin, R.N., Medical Social Service Supervisor
Gertrude Vanden Broek, Social Service Supervisor, Pre-School Program

AREA SERVED: Manhattan, Bronx, Queens and Richmond; Brooklyn and other areas outside of New York City by special arrangement.

PROGRAM: Maintains a comprehensive program of adjustment, training, employment and recreation for the blind and seriously visually handicapped individuals of all ages. Many and varied services (including a prevention of blindness program and medical research into causes of blindness) such as vocational counselling, employment, education, home teaching and recreation are offered according to the individual's need for these and other services.

For the younger age group (birth to age 7), specialized guidance to parents and training for the children are offered and encouraged from the

time that blindness or seriously impaired vision is known or suspected. The services of social workers, psychologists and nursery school educators are offered and psychiatric consultation is also available. The agency maintains its own nursery school and provides transportation to the nursery school for children from 3 to 6 years of age and may also arrange for sighted nursery school placement, according to the needs of the children. Prior to nursery school age, pre-school counselors assist the parents in the home with the children's training, development and education. Parent group meetings are an integral part of this program.

For children of school age and over, assistance is given in planning and securing appropriate educational placement. Home instruction, such as Braille, is given when indicated. Vocational guidance, training and placement are offered. Recreation is provided at the agency's Social Center and the agency also maintains vacation centers. The Lighthouse Music School provides individual and class instruction. Maintains a residential clubhouse for young blind men aged approximately 18 and over. Braille Press and Braille transcribing service. Braille Press Publications:

"Searchlight"—magazine for blind children sent free throughout the world.

"Lighthouse Gleams"—free for blind adults.

Considerable educational literature is available upon request.

For additional information or appointment, call the Intake Worker of the Medical Social Service Division.

New York Guild for the Jewish Blind
1880 Broadway
New York City 23, CIrcle 6-3341
Mrs. Sidney E. Pollack, Administrative Director
Mrs. Florence C. Starr, Director, Social Service Dept.

AREA SERVED: Entire city, as well as adjoining Metropolitan area.

PROGRAM: Non-sectarian agency (except for the Home for the aged). Entire program is set up to meet the needs of blind or partially sighted individuals of all ages. Specialized guidance, training and other services are offered through a staff of social workers, physicians (including psychiatrists, ophthalmologists and other specialists) educators, psychologists and vocational counsellors.

For the younger age group (birth to age 7), specialized guidance to parents and training for the children are offered and encouraged from the time that blindness or seriously impaired vision is known or suspected. This help is given primarily by social case workers and nursery school instructors, with the assistance of other staff members when indicated. The agency maintains its own nursery school for children from approximately the age of 3 to 6 years. Cost of nursery school care ranges from free to $15.00 a week including transportation, in accordance with individual finan-

cial ability. Placement of blind children in sighted nursery schools as well as help in the use of other resources is given according to individual needs. Prior to nursery school age, nursery-school instructors assist the parents in the home with the children's training, development and education. Psychiatric consultation is offered as well as a program of group counselling for mothers and fathers.

For children of school age and over, assistance is given in planning and securing appropriate educational placement. Vocational guidance, training and placement are also offered, as well as other related services.

Social case work services are given to all individuals who apply for the help of this agency, so that each individual's special needs may be evaluated and appropriate help in all areas may be given.

For additional information or appointment, call the Intake Worker, Social Service Dept.

For additional information or appointment, regarding:

Pre-school guidance—call the Supervisor of the Pre-school Blind Service.

Social Work Services—call the Medical Social Worker.

Vocational Counselling—call the Vocational Counselor.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY AGENCIES SERVING BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN

As stated previously, there are agencies other than those described in the preceding pages which offer services for blind and partially sighted individuals. Following is a brief description of these agencies, which for convenience will be divided according to the functions of specialized education, and various other services, such as vocational guidance, financial assistance and recreation. The three specialized agencies with comprehensive programs for the visually handicapped frequently utilize the services of these agencies in behalf of their clients.

A. Specialized Education

Bureau for the Education of Visually Handicapped Children
New York City Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn 2, New York, MAin 4-2800
Mrs. Claire Burrell, Acting Director

Makes arrangements for placement of visually handicapped children in special classes when such care is medically indicated and approved by the Bureau for Handicapped Children of the New York City Department of Health. These classes are designed to help the pupil to compensate for his handicap and to cooperate in the treatment program. Specially trained teachers are assigned so that the child may carry on the greatest possible

amount of his regular school work. The pupil is not isolated; most of his classwork is carried on with the regular classes. In sight conservation class, special materials are prepared and appropriate lessons are conducted. In classes for the blind, Braille equipment and other devices are provided.

Provides school bus transportation for all blind children in the elementary schools. Partially sighted children are provided with carfare for use on common carriers. Provides visiting teacher service.

Lavelle School for the Blind
East 221 Street and Paulding Avenue
Bronx 69, New York, KIngsbridge 7-9440
Supt., Sister M. Richarda

Non-sectarian residential and day school for the care and education of blind children, 3-16 years of age. Provides nursery, kindergarten and elementary classes and vocational training. Free and private pupils. Capacity 70. Managed by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt.

New York Institute for the Education of the Blind
999 Pelham Parkway
Bronx 67, New York, KIngsbridge 7-1234
Merle E. Frampton, Ph.D., Principal

For the care and education of blind and blind-deaf children of pre-school, elementary and secondary school levels, from 3-21 years of age, or

upon completion of high school. Day and residential school, offering both academic and vocational instruction, and educational and vocational guidance and placement. Free to pupils appointed as state pupils by New York and New Jersey. Capacity 200.

B. Agencies Offering Various Services

Brooklyn Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor
401 State Street
Brooklyn 17, New York, TRiangle 5-5482
Marcus C. Hankinson, President
Clara N. Huffington, Director of Sight Conservation

Sight conservation, prevention-of-blindness education and recreation programs for blind and partially sighted children residing in Brooklyn. Vocations and instruction in music, dancing and handcrafts are offered as part of the recreation program. Provides class instruction and home instruction in Braille. Sheltered workshop employs visually handicapped individuals over 18.

Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society
285 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn 17, New York, TRiangle 5-0710
Frederick I. Daniels, Executive Director
Lester R. German, Director, Department for the Handicapped

The department for the handicapped serves Brooklyn residents over 16 years of age, with

visual, orthopedic, cardiac and other physical handicaps. Provides a special adjustment service for visually handicapped girls and women 16 and older, which includes social case work services, home instruction in Braille, crafts and household skills, provides vocational counseling, testing, training, work adjustment program and sheltered employment. Has recreation and summer camp programs. Case work services are available to parents of blind or otherwise handicapped children.

Catholic Centre for the Blind, Inc.
22 East 71 Street
New York City 21, BUtterfield 8-6471
Sister M. Laurentia, Superintendent
Elsie McDermott, Social Worker

Managed by the Sisters of St. Dominic. A nonsectarian boarding home for blind working girls and women, approximately 17 years of age and over. Moderate rates. Capacity 50 and over.

Catholic Guild for the Blind
Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens
191 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn 1, New York, TRiangle 5-0104
Reverend Harold J. Martin, Diocesan Director
Louise A. Hamrah, Director of Social Service

Assists persons of all creeds who are blind or visually handicapped in the fulfillment of their spiritual, material, recreational and educational needs. Primarily serves the older adolescent and adult residents of Brooklyn and Queens. Religious

and spiritual services are given to those of Roman Catholic faith.

Department of Welfare
City of New York
250 Church Street
New York City 13, DIgby 4-8700
Henry McCarthy, Commissioner of Welfare
Anthony Mira, M.D., Director of Medical Services
Grace Allen, Administrator, Medical Social Service

Public financial and other assistance is provided to persons who are totally blind or have impaired vision within the definition of blindness, who meet the public assistance eligibility requirements, such as financial need and residence. Assistance to persons, whether or not visually handicapped, may be given to individuals or families under the Home Relief program, or the federally supplemented programs of aid to dependent children, aid to the disabled (age 18 and over) and aid to the aged (age 65 and over), who meet the public assistance eligibility requirements. Applications for assistance for any of these programs are received at the local welfare centers.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
New York State Department of Education
111 Broadway
New York City 6, REctor 2-2640
Nelson Voorhees, Director

Serves physically and mentally handicapped persons 14 years of age and over, when the condition constitutes a vocational handicap. Does not

serve the blind (individuals with vision of 20/200 or less) who are served by the State Commission for the Blind. Individuals with severe visual handicaps, and those with only one eye, are eligible for the services of this agency which include vocational counseling, physical restoration (when not provided by the Bureau for Handicapped Children), if necessary to specific vocational objective, vocational re-education and training, and placement or job adjustment.

Library for the Blind
New York Public Library
137 West 25th Street
New York City 1, OREgon 5-2432

Books and magazines in Braille and Talking Books may be borrowed by blind readers either in person or by mail (postage free).

Matilda Ziegler Publishing Company for the Blind, Inc.
Monsey, N. Y., Spring Valley 6-0719
Howard M. Liechty, Managing Editor

Publishes a monthly magazine for the blind, one edition printed in New York Point, one in Revised Braille, and one in Moon type. Free distribution to any blind person in the United States and Canada who can read one of these types.

New York State Employment Service
Division of Employment
New York State Department of Labor
Janet I. Pinner, Senior Employment Consultant
for Selective Placement

Anne Altman, Employment Consultant
for Selective Placement

Administrative Office: 1440 Broadway
New York City 18, CHickering 4-7350

Serves individuals 16 and older in all occupations, experienced and inexperienced workers. Special counselling and placement services are available to the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped, to veterans and to those seeking their first jobs or changing their occupations. Vocational testing and counselling are offered, and referral for training is made when indicated. For handicapped workers, efforts are made to find opportunities which fit their skills and physical capacities. Services are given in a number of offices throughout the city. For information regarding the appropriate office at which to apply, telephone the Administrative Office.

IV. NATIONAL AGENCIES

Generally, national agencies do not provide direct services, but provide consultant services to agencies. In addition, national agencies usually publish literature and promote research and training programs.

American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16 Street
New York City 11, WA 4-0420
M. Robert Barnett, Executive Director

Promotes the welfare of the blind through local and state agencies and through legislation. Ref-

erence lending library and information service. Consultation service on vocational guidance, education and social adjustment of the blind and deaf-blind, technical research and development of aids.

Periodicals:

New Outlook for the Blind—$2.00 a year

Touch and Go (in Braille)—free to deaf-blind

National Society for the Prevention of Blindness

1790 Broadway

New York City 19, CIrcle 5-8000

Franklin Foote, M.D., Executive Director

A voluntary public health agency engaged in a program of eliminating preventable loss of sight through education, community service and research.

Periodicals:

Sight Saving Review—$2.50 a year

Prevention of Blindness News—free

V. HOSPITALS AND EYE CLINICS

Following is a list of hospitals in New York City, approved for the training of residents in ophthalmology by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. These hospitals not only provide hospital care, but also have eye clinics.

For information regarding clinic eligibility and fees, hours and geographic boundaries, the specific hospital

clinic or out-patient department should be contacted directly:

MANHATTAN

Bellevue Hospital
First Ave. & E. 27 Street
MU 5-1122

Beth Israel Hospital
10-17 Livingston Place
OR 3-3000

Goldwater Memorial Hospital
Welfare Island
MU 8-3500

Lenox Hill Hospital
111 East 76 Street
TR 9-8000

Manhattan Eye & Ear Hospital
210 East 64 Street
RH 4-7860

Metropolitan Hospital
Welfare Island
PL 3-7500

Mt. Sinai Hospital
11 East 100 Street
TR 6-1000

City Hospital
Welfare Island
MU 8-2040

New York Eye & Ear Infirmary
218 Second Avenue
GR 7-6040

New York Hospital
525 East 68 Street
TR 9-9000

Polyclinic Hospital
341 West 50 Street
CO 5-8000

St. Luke's Hospital
2914 Broadway
MO 2-1660

Presbyterian Hospital
622 West 168 Street
WA 3-2500

University Hospital
303 East 20 Street
GR 7-2000

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Eye & Ear Hospital
29 Greene Avenue
ST 3-6800

Jewish Hospital
555 Prospect Place
UL 7-8700

Kings County Hospital
451 Clarkson Avenue
IN 2-4000

Long Island College Hospital
Henry, Pacific & Amity Streets
MA 4-4000

BRONX

Montefiore Hospital
Gun Hill Road
KI 7-1000

Bronx Eye & Ear Infirmary
321 East Tremont Avenue
TR 8-2600

QUEENS

Queens General Hospital
82-68 164 Street, Jamaica
JA 6-8600

VI. BUREAU FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, NEW YORK CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Eye Clinics

MANHATTAN

Name	*Address*	*Telephone No.*
CENTRAL HARLEM	2238—5 Avenue	AU 3-1900
EAST HARLEM	160 East 115 Street	TR 6-0300
KIPS BAY at MANHATTAN EYE, EAR & THROAT HOSPITAL	210 East 64 Street	TE 8-9200
LOWER EAST SIDE	341 East 25 Street	MU 9-6353
P. S. 64	605 East 9 Street	CA 8-0062
LOWER WEST SIDE P. S. 11	320 West 21 Street	CH 3-1558
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS MANHATTANVILLE	21 Old Broadway	MO 6-5900

BROOKLYN

BAY RIDGE	7914 Third Avenue	SH 8-3084
BROWNSVILLE	295 Bristol Street	HY 8-6742
CANARSIE	1106 East 95 Street	NI 9-1531
BUSHWICK	186 Grove Street	GL 3-2544
FORT GREENE	295 Flatbush Ave. Ext.	TR 5-9400
HOMECREST	1601 Avenue S	NI 5-8280
RED HOOK	250 Baltic Street	TR 5-1872
WILLIAMSBURG-GREENPOINT	151 Maujer Street	EV 8-3714

BRONX

MOTT HAVEN	349 East 140 Street	MO 9-6010
TREMONT	1826 Arthur Avenue	LU 3-5500

QUEENS

CORONA	34-33 Junction Blvd.	HI 6-3570
JAMAICA	148-15 Archer Avenue	OL 8-6600
ROCKAWAY BEACH	67-10 Rockaway Beach Blvd.	NE 4-7700
MASPETH P. S. 81	551 Cypress Avenue	HE 3-6012

RICHMOND

RICHMOND	51 Stuyvesant Place	SA 7-6000

7500—706797 (53) 265